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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/280,528	03/30/1999	ROBERT A. CORDERY	E-831	5943
919	7590	03/11/2004	EXAMINER	
PITNEY BOWES INC. 35 WATerview DRIVE P.O. BOX 3000 MSC 26-22 SHELTON, CT 06484-8000			DIXON, THOMAS A	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		3629		
DATE MAILED: 03/11/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/280,528	CORDERY ET AL
	Examiner Thomas A. Dixon	Art Unit 3629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 January 2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 2-7,10-24,27 and 30-32 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 1,8,9,25,26,28 and 29 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 2-6,10-13 and 30-32 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 7,14-24 and 27 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 18.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The IDS submitted 20 January 2004 has been considered.
2. Applicant's arguments have been considered and are persuasive.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tygar et al.

As per Claim 7.
Tygar et al discloses an indicium on a article, see sections starting page 380 (Traditional indicia), 382 (Cryptographic Indicia);
a) a signature generated with a private key of a first party, see page 388 lines 11-20;
b) a certificate, see page 388, lines 21-31;
c) information specifying attributes of said article, see page 388 lines 24-26;
d) said private key of said first party is generated as a function of said certificate, said information, and a private key of a certifying authority, said function being chosen so that a private party wishing to verify said indicium can determine a public key corresponding to said private key of said first party by operating on said certificate and said information with a corresponding public key of said certifying authority, see page 388 lines 11-31.

As per Claim 10, 12.
Tygar et al discloses:
a) said certifying authority providing said meter with an integer, said integer being a function of said private key of said authority, see page 388, lines 15-20;
b) said meter computing a digital postal meter private key as a second function of said integer, see page 388, lines 21-25;

c) said certifying authority publishing related information , see page 388, line 33;

d) said first function, said second function and said published related information are chosen so that a party seeking to verify said indicia can compute said digital postal meter public key by operating on said published related information with said published public key of said authority, see page 384, 6.1 Random Sampling – page 386 6.3.

As per Claim 11, 13.

Tygar et al discloses said published related information includes information identifying said digital postage meter and operating parameters applicable to said digital postal meter, see page 388, lines 24-37.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 2-6, 14-24, 27, 30-32 are allowable.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As per Claim 14.

The prior art of record, specifically Pauschinger ('704) or Cordery et al ('827) in view of Vanstone ('281) does not disclose or fairly teach the method of verification of a postal indicium as claimed in step i.

As per Claim 15.

The prior art of record, specifically Pauschinger ('704) or Cordery et al ('827) in view of Vanstone ('281) does not disclose or fairly teach the method of verification of a postal indicium as claimed in step f.

As per Claim 16.

The prior art of record, specifically Pauschinger ('704) or Cordery et al ('827) in view of Vanstone ('281) does not disclose or fairly teach the method of verification of a postal indicium as claimed in step e.

As per Claim 17.

The prior art of record, specifically Pauschinger ('704) or Cordery et al ('827) in view of Vanstone ('281) does not disclose or fairly teach the method of verification of a postal indicium as claimed in step i.

As per Claim 23.

The prior art of record, specifically Pauschinger ('704) or Cordery et al ('827) in view of Vanstone ('281) does not disclose or fairly teach the method of verification of a postal indicium as claimed in step f.

As per Claim 24.

The prior art of record, specifically Pauschinger ('704) or Cordery et al ('827) in view of Vanstone ('281) does not disclose or fairly teach the method of verification of a postal indicium as claimed in steps e-g.

As per Claim 31.

The prior art of record, specifically Pauschinger ('704) or Cordery et al ('827) in view of Vanstone ('281) does not disclose or fairly teach the method of generation of a postal indicium as claimed in step .d

As per Claim 32.

The prior art of record, specifically Pauschinger ('704) or Cordery et al ('827) in view of Vanstone ('281) does not disclose or fairly teach the method of verification of a postal indicium as claimed in step c.

The claims which depend from the above allowed claims are allowed for the same reasons.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas A. Dixon whose telephone number is (703) 305-4645. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 6:30 - 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (703) 308-2702. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Thomas A. Dixon
Examiner
Art Unit 3629

March 3, 2004